



The Twitcher

January
2025

CENTRAL COAST GROUP, BIRDING NSW

Editorial Team: Allan Benson (0457 458 274) Wendy Mitchell (0423 388 529) & Robyn Price Volume 20, No. 1

DATE	ACTIVITIES	LEADER/SPEAKER
29/01/25	Next Meeting: Members' Night Meet: 7.30pm Tuggerah Progress Hall, Anzac Rd, Tuggerah, opposite McDonalds	Allan Benson / Michael Scobie
1/02/25	Outing: Bucketty and Mogo Meet: 8.30am The Letter "A" Cnr George Downs Drive and Walker's Ridge Road	Graham Nelson 0466 599 278
2/02/25	Breakfast with the Birds Meet: 7.45 am Central Coast Wetlands-Pioneer Dairy. Cost \$8	REMEMBER TO REGISTER CEN 4349 4757
12/02/25	½ day Outing: Saratoga and Davistown Meet: 8.30am Saratoga Oval, Willaroo Rd, Saratoga	REMEMBER TO REGISTER Doug Hocking 0427 800 428
25/02/25	Next Meeting: Artificial Nesting sites for Black-necked Storks Meet: 7.30pm Tuggerah Progress Hall, Anzac Rd, Tuggerah, opposite McDonalds Note: For all Outings bring your morning tea and lunch. A chair is a good idea.	Ann Lindsey



Tea, coffee, and biscuits will be available at the end of the meeting.
To cover hall hire and refreshments a donation of \$4 would be appreciated.

Tonight's Meeting: Member's night - presentation of Twitcher's Trophy, Alan Morris Award and Photographic Competition winners as well as short presentations by members.

Last Month's Meeting: A good crowd of 37 members attended to hear Charuka Abhayawickrama provide a very entertaining and professional presentation about his photographic Australian Big Year in 2022. Charuka outlined the places the length and breadth of Australia and off-shore islands he had visited and a selection of the birds he photographed there. What is remarkable is that Charuka only started bird photography during Covid and didn't even envisage a Big Year until August/September. Charuka said the highlights of his year were visiting places he had never been to, making friends and learning a lot about himself. This was a remarkable achievement to photograph 772 species. Total cost of the year was \$178,000.

Webpage: Don't forget to check out the Birding NSW Webpage www.birdingnsw.org.au where there is plenty of info about outings, photograph gallery, and general info about the Club. Well worth a visit! Check out Central Coast Birders on Facebook as well! It has now reached over 1300 members. A great job Malcolm Hill! The Facebook page is a huge success allowing bird-related issues to reach over 800 people on the Central Coast.

Total Fire Ban Days and Outings: Outings may be cancelled on days of total fire bans. This will be determined on a case-by-case basis and will depend on the planned birding site being accessible and the potential risk. This decision will be made by the leader. If the outing is cancelled it will be published on Central Coast Birders Facebook. If in doubt contact the outing leader.

Saving Stamps: Please keep saving used stamps (on paper, trimmed) to pass to Wendy Mitchell for donation to charity.

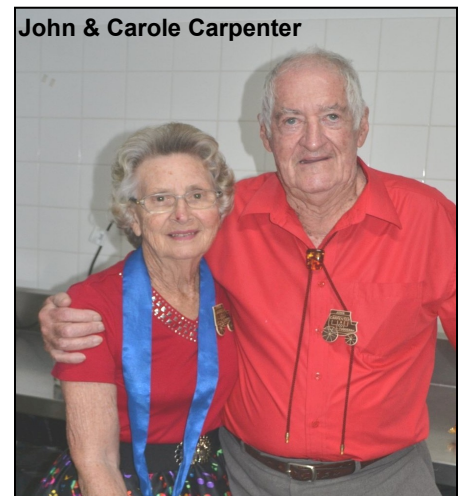
CAMPS 2025

Fri 14th - Sun 16th March	Batemans Bay	Christina Port	0421 691 317	Pleasurelea Tourist Resort 438 Beach Rd, Batemans Bay (02) 4472 4258
Fri 2nd - Sun 4th May	Scone	Graham Nelson	0466 599 278	Scone Caravan Park 50 Kelly St, Scone (02) 6545 2024
Tue 2nd - Thu 4th September	Parkes	Doug Hocking	0427 800 428	Spicer Caravan Park 37a Albert St, Parkes. (02) 6862 6162
Tue 21st - Thu 23rd October	South West Rocks	Alan Morris	0418 269 482	Ingenia Caravan Park Gordon Young Drive, South West Rocks (02) 6566 6264

LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARDED TO JOHN AND CAROLE CARPENTER

The president of Birding NSW, Tom Wilson, made an announcement at our Christmas outing that John and Carole have been made Life Members of Birding NSW.

This award is thoroughly deserved. John and Carole have been stalwarts of the Central Coast Group. They were founding members in 1995 and have made and continue to make a massive contribution to our group. They still set up the hall for every meeting, organise the tea and coffee, lead two outings every year, have been regular attendees at the camps and John was treasurer until last year. It would be fair to say that without John and Carole, our group would never have been so successful.



BIRTHDAY BREAKFAST

Michael Scobie, Wendy Mitchell, Judy Clark and Graham Catt will all be celebrating very significant milestone birthdays in February. Join them in celebration at 9am on **Monday 3rd March** at The Waterfall Cafe, Kariong. Please text Frik Gautschi on 0404 467 097 to confirm numbers. **NO presents!**

PAY YOUR MEETING DONATION ELECTRONICALLY

Don't scratch around for cash! Graham Nelson has set up an account so your meeting donation can be paid electronically. Pay for one or more in advance:

BSB: 063097 A/C 89676934

CALLING ALL BIRD NERDS! YOU CAN HELP OUR NATIVE BIRDS WHILE HAVING A FUN NIGHT OUT! COMPETE FOR BIRD-THEMED PRIZES AND THE TITLE OF BIGGEST BIRD NERD AT AN AVIAN TRIVIA FUNDRAISING DINNER.

Proceeds go to BirdLife Australia to aid their work saving endangered species. Our first bird trivia night was a great success with everyone having a great time and together we raised \$832 for BirdLife Southern NSW to support their education and outreach work.

Form a team with your birding buddies or come alone and make new friends! For just \$35 you get to 3 course home-cooked dinner (vegan & non-vegan options), lots of chances to win birdy prizes in the trivia comp and games of luck, plus a take-home gift for all.

There will also be original bird art and prints donated by local artists for auction or sale.

When: Saturday **22nd Feb 2025**, from 5pm (for socializing & nibbles) for 6pm start

Where: private home just north of Hornsby. Guest bedrooms are available for a few people.

Contact Kylie at ky.anne@outlook.com to put your name down. Places are limited!

WHAT WAS NEW in December/January and WHAT CAN WE EXPECT in February?

There has been a number of significant records in the past period. The Terrigal Pelagics continue to deliver with not one but two New Zealand Storm-Petrels, Cook's Petrel, White-necked Petrel and Mottled Petrel. In addition, a Black-winged Petrel was observed in inshore waters off Norah Head. This is only the 3rd record for the Central Coast.

A Lesser Frigatebird was recorded over three days at Snapper Point in Munmorah SCA. This is our 2nd record. A Grey Plover was found at Chittaway. This is the 8th record.



Lesser Frigate Bird
Daniel McKeon



Grey Plover
David Schuemaker

Logrunners were heard and photographed near Walker's Ridge Rd in Olney SF. This is only the 3rd record. It looks like Little Grassbird might have bred at the Dairy. Two adults and two juveniles were observed there. Also at the Dairy were Red-kneed Dotterel (which have been hard to find) and Black-necked Storks have returned. 40 Pacific Swifts were counted at Narara. There have been very few reports in NSW this year.

For February, the spring migrants will still be present and given the records for January anything may turn up.

OUTING REPORTS

Outing: November 30

ASH ISLAND AND STOCKTON

Leader: Daniel McKeon

A wet old Saturday morning had group numbers down for the annual outing to Ash Island and Stockton Sandspit. Eight members of New South Wales Birding met at Minmi Oval where hopes were high after the previous year's outing. We made our way over to Pambalong Nature Reserve where we spent the morning casually wandering the road hoping for a raptor flyover. A pair of calling Pheasant Coucals kept us entertained as we tried to catch a glimpse. After a long time and multiple calls, a single bird was finally spotted. Other highlights included some Reed Warblers, Whistling Kite, Swamp Harrier, a Golden-headed Cisticola and some Regent Bowerbirds high in a tree. Some cows also put on a show for us as they spent time feeding on the steep hill sides.

Next stop was Ash Island where morning tea and a walk through the fields on the island awaited. Mozzies were order of the day so bug repellent was applied by all of the group. Our walk bought us some interesting birds with highlights being a close fly-by of a Square-tailed Kite, a Brown Goshawk, Brahminy Kite, Osprey and probably the highlight being a Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater seeming to be tending to a nest. An Australian Hobby hunting the local feral Pigeons met us as we made our way back to the cars.

The drive to Stockton Sandspit had us encountering Brown Falcon and Nankeen Kestrel. The usual wader species met us at the Sandspit with Far Eastern Curlew and Whimbrel drawing the most attention from onlookers. Some busy little Double-barred Finch near the car park made for an entertaining lunch and a handful of Curlew Sandpiper and a lone Grey-tailed Tattler finished off what had turned out to be a very enjoyable day. The weather held off and the birds came out to play especially the raptors with eleven species being seen on the day. Seventy-six species were seen all up and everyone left happy, some with a lifer or two.

Thank you to all who came and made the day what it was. These outings are always more enjoyable because of the people who attend them. See you all next year.

Photos on Page 4



A Very Relaxed Leader
Leeanne Lemke

From Page 4



Spiny-cheeked
Honeyeater



Brown Pigeons
Liz Noble

See below

Christmas Outing: Dec 14 MARDI & CENTRAL COAST WETLANDS Leaders: Carole & John Carpenter

23 birders including Birding N.S.W. President, Tom Wilson, made the usual 7.30 am early start at our home, along with the loudest sounding cicadas for several years. Brown Cuckoo-Doves, although down in numbers, were present along with King Parrot, Bar-shouldered Dove, Wonga Pigeon, Red-browed Finch and a lone White-headed Pigeon.

A walk up the hill and we were delighted to see Varied Sittella foraging up high, Yellow Robin and Grey Fantail. We continued our walk along the fire trail to the Reservoir, observing Brown Thornbill, White-browed Scrubwren, White-throated Treecreeper, Variegated and Superb Fairywren, Bell Miner and Eastern Spinebill. A Channel-billed Cuckoo made a noisy flyover and a Koel was heard.

With a tally of 31 species, we headed to the Wetlands to meet up with our fellow birders and for morning tea. It was especially good to see Elisabeth Hodson again. As the day was heating up, we ventured out for the long walk first.

Most of us were well along the track and missed out on seeing the Brown Songlark some of the non-walkers found. Tawny Grassbird, Golden-headed Cisticola, Rainbow and Little Lorikeets, Red-rumped Parrot, records of breeding White-breasted Woodswallows and Grey Butcherbirds were noted. Brown and Stubble Quail were heard but not seen.

We continued along the creek to the "green-fleet" paddock seeing Striated Thornbill, Brown Gerygone, and Lewin's Honeyeater. An immature Cuckoo had us confused but was finally called a Fan-tailed Cuckoo. The heat and hunger saw us return for lunch, after which Michael Scobie made his usual thanks and gifts for those people who have helped with the running of our club.



Christmas Outing, CC Wetlands
Rick Noble

The keen birders then did the walk around the creek and buildings where the best birds were Australian Hobby and Buff-banded Rail. The usual water birds had been noted along with Latham's Snipe, Wood Sandpiper, Black-fronted Dotterel, Royal Spoonbill and Australasian Shoveler. Raptors observed were Whistling Kite, soaring and at nest, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Swamp Harrier and the Australian Hobby.

The bird species count for the outing, either seen or heard by the 38 observers totalled 93, a good count for the hot day and noisy cicadas. Thanks everyone for your attendance, bird observations and great company, making it a really good social occasion for our end of year Xmas outing.

John and I were delighted at the announcement by Tom Wilson of our Life Membership of Birding N.S.W. for our contribution to our Central Coast Group, which we helped start in December 1995.

SPECIES LIST**NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2024****Bird names used and the order in which they occur are in accord with the IOC World Birdlist Version 11.1.2021**

First Migrant arrival *	Last Migrant departure **	LN = biggest number since January	OW = Over-winter
November			
Brown Quail	2	7/11/2024	Tuggerah Bay Saltmarsh Andrew Robinson
Hoary-headed Grebe	12	9-24/11/24	Tuggerah STW Andrew Robinson
Tawny Frogmouth	N+2Y	5-12/11/24	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn Margaret Pointer
Owlet -Nightjar	1	22&29/11/24	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn Kaye Pointer
White-throated Needletail	200	13/11/2024	0800 hrs Wamberal to Erina Heights Nick Carson
White-throated Needletail	400	13/11/2024	0900 hrs Berkeley Vale to Wamberal Carole Carpenter
White-throated Needletail	400	30/11/2024	Wyee to Wyong Leonie Loewe
Channel-billed Cuckoo	2	2/11/2024	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah B. Ward-Smith
Brush Cuckoo	1	7/11/2024	Tuggerah Bay Andrew Robinson
Brush Cuckoo	1	18/11/2024	Old Great Nth Road & Mogo Camp Daniel McKeon
Brush Cuckoo	1	26/11/2024	Pearl Beach Hitomi Ward
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	J	15-22/11/24	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn Margaret Pointer
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	Im	23/11/2024	Bunning Creek Rd, Yarramalong Julie Peksis
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	1	26/11/2024	Strickland SF, Narara Connor Nest
Pacific Emerald Dove	1	24/11/2023	Orchard Village, Lisarow Jude Benson
Peaceful Dove	2	9-23/11/24	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn Margaret Pointer
Peaceful Dove	2	18/11/2024	Waratah Rd North, Mangrove Mountain Allan Benson
Brush Bronzewing	5	8/11/2024	Brisbane Water NP Andrew Robinson
Common Bronzewing	6	18/11/2024	Old Great Nth Road & Mogo Camp Daniel McKeon
Buff-banded Rail	2	3/11/2024	Picnic Point, The Entrance Tricia Sweet
Buff-banded Rail	1	4/11/2024	Ansell's Point, Chittaway Alan Morris
Buff-banded Rail	1	8/11/2024	Berkeley Creek, Berkley Vale Alan Morris
Painted Buttonquail	1	18/11/24	Mogo Camp, Yengo NP, Bucketty Daniel McKeon
White-headed Stilt	69	9-24/11/24	Tuggerah STW Andrew Robinson
Ruddy Turnstone	24	30/11/2024	Norah Head Andrew Robinson
Red-kneed Dotterel	1	18-20/11/24	Dairy Swamp CCW, Tuggerah David Schuemaker
Bar-tailed Godwit	13	16/11/2024	Davistown mudflats Nick Carson
Eastern Curlew	2	16/11/2024	Davistown mudflats Nick Carson
Latham's Snipe	4	2/11/2024	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah Meryl Newton
Bar-tailed Godwit	17	7/11/2024	Tuggerah Bay Andrew Robinson
Whimbrel	1	16/11/2024	Pelican Island, Brisbane Water Nick Carson
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	95	3-24/11/24	Chittaway Point West Laurie Smith
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	54	4-7/11/24	Ansell Point, Chittaway Alan Morris
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	8	13/11/2024	Rocky Point, North Tacoma Meryl Newton
Red-necked Stint	28	30/11/2024	Norah Head Andrew Robinson
Wood Sandpiper	1	19-27/11/24	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah Ann Lindsey
Pomarine Jaeger	7,1	1 & 16/11	Terrigal pelagic Andrew Robinson
Long-tailed Jaeger	1	1/11/2024	Terrigal pelagic Andrew Robinson
Pomarine Jaeger	5	22/11/2024	Terrigal pelagic Andrew Robinson
Little Tern	300+N	26/11/2024	nesting under way, Karagi Point Andrew Robinson
Sooty Tern	4,5,5	1,15, 22/11	Terrigal pelagic Andrew Robinson
Red-tailed Tropicbird	4	22/11/2024	Terrigal pelagic Andrew Robinson
White-faced Storm-Petrel	1	1/11/2024	4 on 20/11, Terrigal pelagic Andrew Robinson
Black-bellied Storm-Petrel	1	22/11/2024	Terrigal pelagic James Bennett
New Zealand Storm-Petrel	1	22/11/2024	Terrigal pelagic James Bennett
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	17	1/11/2024	Terrigal pelagic Andrew Robinson
Wand. (<i>Antipodean</i>) Albat	2	22/11/2024	Terrigal pelagic Andrew Robinson
Black-browed Albatross	16	1/11/2024	Terrigal pelagic Andrew Robinson
Campbell Albatross	1	1/11/2024	Terrigal pelagic Andrew Robinson
White-capped Albatross	2	1/11/2024	Terrigal pelagic Andrew Robinson
White-chinned Petrel	1	1/11/2024	Terrigal pelagic Andrew Robinson
Grey-faced Petrel	14	1/11/2024	Terrigal pelagic Andrew Robinson
Providence Petrel	1	1/11/2024	Terrigal pelagic Andrew Robinson

Gould's Petrel	1	1/11/2024	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Short-tailed Shearwater	1500+	1/11/2024	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Sooty Shearwater	3	1/11/2024	4 on 20/11, Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Flesh-footed Shearwater	35	1/11/2024	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Hutton's Shearwater	2	1/11/2024	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Fluttering Shearwater	4	1/11/2024	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	100+	1/11/2024	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Black-necked Stork	2	7/11/2024	Tuggerah Bay	Andrew Robinson
Nankeen Night-Heron	3	8-13/11/24	Avoca Lagoon	David Lamont
Black Bittern	1	11/11/2024	Ourimbah Creek Chittaway	Nick Carson
Black Bittern	1	23/11/2024	Barralong Rd Erina	Nick Carson
White-necked Heron	5	8/11/2024	in dead tree, Wisemans Ferry Rd, M.Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Osprey	2A,2Y	11-15/11/24	Gosford Stadium	Gary Jackson
Osprey	2A+N	12/11/2024	Harry Moore Oval, Toukley	Darren Earnshaw
Osprey	1	5/11/2024	The Entrance	Andrew Robinson
Pacific Baza	1	28/11/2024	Peats Ridge Public School	Ben Stuart
Pacific Baza	1	6/11/2024	Ourimbah Creek Rd Ourimbah	Darren Earnshaw
Square-tailed Kite	1	16/11/2024	Gosford Stadium	Rob Montgomery
Square-tailed Kite	1	18/11/2024	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	John Carpenter
Square-tailed Kite	1	29/11/2024	Gosford	Andrew Robinson
Black-shouldered Kite	1	5/11/2024	McPherson Rd Swamp, Tuggerah	Graham Nelson
Wedge-tailed Eagle	2	1-18/11/24	x6 Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Brown Goshawk:	2+N	6-25/11/24	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Grey Goshawk	1	5/11/1104	McPherson Rd Swamp, Tuggerah	Graham Nelson
Grey Goshawk	1	6/11/2024	Ourimbah Creek Rd, Ourimbah	Darren Earnshaw
Grey Goshawk	1	7/11/2024	Tuggerah Bay	Andrew Robinson
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	4/11/2024	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	John Carpenter
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	21/11/2024	Brisbane Ave, Umina Beach	Nick Carson
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	21/11/2024	Lisarow	Andrew Robinson
Rainbow Bee-eater	4	23/11/2024	Bunning Ck Rd, Yarramalong	Julie Peksis
Dollarbird *	1	3 & 4/11/24	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	Carole Carpenter
Southern Boobook	1	23/11/2024	Billabong St, Woy Woy	Greg Shaw
Southern Boobook	1	25/11/2024	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	John Carpenter
Powerful Owl	1	26/11/2024	Winnie Bay, Avoca Beach	Janet Kemp
Powerful Owl	1	27/11/2024	Henry Kendall Gardens, Wyoming	Anne Durkin
Nankeen Kestrel	2	12/11/2024	West Gosford CBD	Darren Earnshaw
Nankeen Kestrel	1	23/11/2024	Copacabana Beach	Cooper Tamayo
Australian Hobby	1	23/11/2024	Waratah Rd North, Mangrove Mountain	Julie Peksis
Australian Hobby	1	30/11/2024	Norah Head	Andrew Robinson
Brown Falcon	1	6/11/2024	2 on 18/11, Tathra Taila HSD, Man. Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Glossy Black Cockatoo	2	11/11/2024	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Glossy Black Cockatoo	2A+J	21/11/2024	Kincumber Mountain	Meredith McGowan
Glossy Black Cockatoo	1	30/11/2024	Kent St, Niagara Park	Nicola Brown
Gang Gang Cockatoo	2	23/11/2024	Yengo NP, Bucketty	Andrew Robinson
Little Lorikeet	2	8/11/2024	Tathra Taila HSD ,Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Little Lorikeet	2	23/11/2024	Yengo NP, Bucketty	Andrew Robinson
Red-rumped Parrot	9	24/11/2024	16 on Feb 2024, Dairy Swamp CCW	David Schuemaker
Superb Lyrebird	1	16/11/2024	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	Carole Carpenter
Superb Lyrebird	1	23/11/2024	Somersby Falls	Arnie Boyaci
Noisy Pitta	1	1-14/11/24	Katandra Reserve, Matcham	Nick Carson
Noisy Pitta	1	1-8/11/2024	Strickland SF, Narara	Nick Carson
Noisy Pitta	1	22/11/2024	Ourimbah RTA Reserve	Rick Worthy
Red-browed Treecreeper	1	22/11/2024	Mogo camp, Yengo NP, Bucketty	Neryl Richards
Southern Emu-wren	3	21/11/2024	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	David Schuemaker
Blue-faced Honeyeater	2	13/11/2024	Terrigal Surf Club Carpark	Darren Earnshaw
Blue-faced Honeyeater	1	21/11/2024	Tuggerah Hall, Anzac Rd, Tuggerah	Carole Carpenter
Blue-faced Honeyeater	3	30/11/2024	Umina Beach	Greg Shaw

Tawny-crowned Honeyeater	4	17/11/2024	Munmorah SCA	Andrew Robinson
Striated Thornbill	5	5/11/2024	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	Carole Carpenter
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	4	18/11/2024	Waratah Rd North, Mangrove Mtn	Allan Benson
Mangrove Gerygone	1	16/11/2024	Pelican Island, Woy Woy	Nick Carson
Buff-rumped Thornbill	3	5/11/2024	Alison Reserve, Jilliby	Graham Nelson
Spotted Quail-thrush	2	23/11/2024	Yengo NP, Bucketty	Andrew Robinson
Varied Sittella	2	2/11/2024	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Margaret Pointer
Crested Shrike-tit	2	1/11/2024	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Margaret Pointer
Cicadabird	23	11/2/2023	Yengo NP, Bucketty	Andrew Robinson
Satin Flycatcher	AM	2/11/2024	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Rufous Fantail *	1	2/11/2024	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	John Carpenter
Common Cicadabird	1	3 & 29/11	Katandra Reserve, Matcham	Nick Carson
White-winged Triller	1	9/11/2024	The Letter A, Bucketty	Guy Dutson
Dusky Woodswallow	1	16/11/2024	Bucketty Waterhole	Daniel McKeon
Leaden Flycatcher	2A+2J	25/11/2024	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Jacky Winter	1	18/11/2024	Waratah Rd North, Mangrove Mtn	Allan Benson
Jacky Winter	2A+2J	23/11/2024	Bunning Creek Rd, Yarramalong	Julie Peksis
Rose Robin	AM	1 & 26/11	Strickland SF, Narara	John Forster
Rufous Songlark	1	27/10/2024	Kyola Rd, Kulnura	Michael Breheney
Rufous Songlark	5	9/11/2024	The Letter A, Bucketty	Guy Dutson
Rufous Songlark	2	12-18/11/24	Waratah Rd, North Mangrove Mtn	Graham Catt
Tree Martin	1	8/11/2024	Gosford Waterfront	Andrew Robinson
Bassian Thrush	1	1/11/2024	Strickland SF, Narara	John Forster
December 2024				
Musk Duck	4	9/12/2024	Colongra Swamp NR, Lake Munmorah	Steve Grant
Australian Shoveler	1	12/12/2024	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Carol Edwards
Pheasant Coucal	1	7/12/2024	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Allan Benson
White-throated Nightjar	2	17/12/2024	Mount White	Michael Scobie
White-throated Nightjar	1	18/12/2024	Ravensdale, on road	Louise Salter
White-throated Needletail	100	10/12/2024	0930 hrs Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Mel Stratton
White-throated Needletail	100	22/12/2024	0930 hrs Toukley, over Budgewoi Lake	Leeanne Lemke
White-throated Needletail	100	31/12/2024	0930 hrs Norah Head	Carmel Baker
Brush Bronzewing	2	3/12/2024	Magenta Shores	Elizabeth Noble
Buff-banded Rail	1	9/8/2024	Henry Kendall Gardens, Wyoming	Rob Montgomery
Bar-shouldered Dove	5	8/12/2024	Ourimbah M1 Rest Area	David Schuemaker
Sooty Oystercatcher	9	1/12/2024	20 on 4/12, Blue Bay Reefs	Elizabeth Noble
Pacific Golden Plover	8	1-4/12/24	Blue Bay Reefs	Elizabeth Noble
Red-kneed Dotterel	1	27/12/2024	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Andrew Robinson
Latham's Snipe	4	22-28/12/24	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	David Schuemaker
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	19	1-10/12/24	Chittaway Point West	Elizabeth Noble
Red-necked Stint	60	1-4/12/2024	Blue Bay Reefs	Elizabeth Noble
Grey-tailed Tattler	4	1-4/12/2024	Blue Bay Reefs	Elizabeth Noble
Wood Sandpiper	1	12-28/12/24	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Carol Edwards
Wandering Tattler	2	1-4/12/24	Blue Bay Reefs	Elizabeth Noble
Ruddy Turnstone	10	1-4/12/2024	20 on 4/12, Blue Bay Reefs	Noble/Robinson
Sooty Tern	1	20/12/2024	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Little Tern	380	2-12/12/24	nesting under way at Karagi Point	Andrew Robinson
Common Tern	1	2/12/2024	Karagi Point, The Entrance	Andrew Robinson
New Zealand Storm-Petrel	1	20/12/2024	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Buller's Albatross	2	20/12/2024	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Shy Albatross	24	20/12/2024	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Northern Giant-Petrel	1	20/12/2024	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Cook's Petrel	1	20/12/2024	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
White-necked Petrel	1	20/12/2024	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Buller's Shearwater	3	20/12/2024	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Lesser Frigatebird	imm	15-17/12/24	Snapper Pt, Munmorah SCA	Zee Merven

Rufous Night-Heron	1	19/12/2024	Carawah Reserve, West Gosford	Julie Peksis
Black Bittern	1	26/12/2024	Sheffield Drive, Gosford	Jacob Verhagen
Osprey	2AN+1Y	14/12/2024	San Remo Communications Tower	Julie-Anne Gosper
Black-shouldered Kite	1	2/12/2004	Mount Penang Gardens	Guy Dutson
Square-tailed Kite	1	3/12/2024	Wagstaffe	Joe Deluca
Square-tailed Kite	1	10/12/2024	Mount White	Sue Watts
Square-tailed Kite	1	1/12/2204	Davidson Oval, Narara	David Schuemaker
Little Eagle	1	7/12/2024	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Allan Benson
Brown Goshawk	1	1-2/12/24	Mount Penang Gardens	Guy Dutson
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	9/12/2024	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	Carole Carpenter
Rainbow Bee-eater	4	3/12/2024	Magenta Shores	Elizabeth Noble
Southern Boobook	1	1/12/2024	Murrumbung HSD Mardi	Carole Carpenter
Powerful Owl	1	28-29/12/24	Wyong East	Grace Bryant
Little Lorikeet	2	14/12/2024	Wye	Leonie Loewe
Musk Lorikeet	20	1/12/2024	Toukley Rd, Toukley	Leeanne Lemke
Noisy Pitta	1	12/12/2024	Upper Palmdale	Carol Edwards
Noisy Pitta	J	18/12/2204	2A+J on 27/12 Upper Palmdale	R.Worthy/L.Loewe
Blue-faced Honeyeater	7	12/12/2024	Davidson Oval, Narara	David Schuemaker
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	2	1/12/2024	Mangrove Mountain	Andrew Robinson
Varied Triller	AM	1/12/2024	M1 Rest Area, Ourimbah	David Schuemaker
Bassian Thrush	2	3/12/2024	Strickland SF, Narara	Paul Fuller
Bassian Thrush	1	16/12/2024	Ourimbah Creek Rd Ourimbah	Elaine Elliott
Jacky Winter	2	2/12/2004	Ironbark Rd, Mangrove Mtn	Guy Dutson

Breeding and other records November/December 2024

Chestnut Teal: 2A+4 ducklings Long Jetty 3/12 (ENo); **Tawny Frogmouth:** 2A,N,2Y Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 5/11 (MPo); **White-throated Needletail:** There were 14 reports for November and also for 14 in December, info passed to Dr. Tarburton; **Pied Oystercatcher:** 2A+J Pelican Is Brisbane Water 16/11 (NCa), 2A+J The Entrance & pr nesting Chittaway Point both 21/11 (ARo); **Osprey:** 1 Booker Bay 26/11 (GSh); **Brown Goshawk:** 2+N Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 3/11 (KPo); **Grey Goshawk:** 2 Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 9-15/11 (KPo), 1 Pelican Pt Carpark, Wyaralong NP 22/11 (RGa), 1 Wyong Weir 21/11 (MSt); **Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo:** 2A+J Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 22/11 (MPo); **Glossy Black Cockatoo:** 2 Munmorah SCA 18/11 (per MNe), 2 Yengo NP Bucketty 23/11 (ARo); **Noisy Pitta:** 1 Palmdale 24/11 (ARo); **Superb Fairy-wren:** 2A+ nest with young 9/11 (DLA), 2A+N Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 14/11, AM+2J 25/11 (KPo); **Noisy Friarbird:** 2A+N Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mt 7/11 (KPo); **Spotted Pardalote:** 2 nesting Mt White 1/11 (SWa); **Brown Thornbill:** 2A+J Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 4/11, 2A+DY on 15/11 (KPo); **Striated Thornbill:** 2A+2J Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 7-12/11, 3A+2J on 21/11 (KPo); **Eastern Whipbird:** 2A+2J Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 14/11 (KPo); **Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike:** 2A+2DY Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 24/11 (KPo); **White-breasted Woodswallow:** A+2DY Davistown 16/11 (NCa), 2A+2DY Central Coast Wetlands 18/11 (TSw); **Grey Fantail:** A+N Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 2/11, 2+J on 22/11 (KPo); **Australian Raven:** 2A+2DY East Gosford 12/11/2024 (BWS); **Eastern Yellow Robin:** A+J Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 1/11, 20/11 (KPo); A+2J Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 14/11 (KPo). Good Birding!

TWITCH LIST December 2024

Andrew Robinson	293	Kaye Pointer	199	Gabrielle Rees	164
Nick Carson	265	Carole Carpenter	193	Rowena Wallace	163
Graham Nelson	249	John Carpenter	191	Robyn Price	156
Allan Benson	246	Chris Jamieson	186	Diana Hogan	155
David Schuemaker	243	Margaret Pointer	186	Michael Scobie	149
Christina Port	228	Julie Peksis	183	Frik Gautschi	138
Daniel McKeon	215	Leonie Loewe	182	Judy Clark	138
Krystyna Lonergan	201	Doug Hocking	176	Alan Morris	136
				Paul Shelley	120

Congratulations to Andy Robinson for a stellar effort. He smashed his own record of 284 set last year. The big contributor to his total has been the very successful Terrigal pelagics that Andy has organised. Special mention to Nick Carson with 265. In past years this would have been a winning total.

BIRDATA SURVEYS YTD 2024

Graham Nelson	438	Robyn Price	75	Doug Hocking	24
Alan Stuart	343	C Clutterbuck	52	David Schuemaker	24
Allan Benson	304	Frik Gautschi	47	Meryl Newton	21
Nick Carson	292	Guy Dutson	42	Ann Lindsey	18
Leeanne Lemke	76	Michael Scobie	39	Leonie Loewe	17
				Daniel McKeon	13

For November 2024, 97 surveys were completed compared with 95 in 2023. YTD 2024, 2917 surveys were completed. This is a significant improvement on 2023 where 2578 surveys were entered.

Congratulations to Graham Nelson on recording 438 surveys. He will be awarded the Alan Morris Trophy for 2024. This is an outstanding effort considering the winning total in 2023 was 311. A special mention to Alan Stuart with the second total of 343

We would like to see more birders putting in more surveys. Birddata is one way, as a birder, you can make a contribution to bird conservation.

CENTRAL COAST TWITCHERS LISTS

Australian List		2024 list		NSW List		Central Coast List	
John Weigel	815	Gabrielle Rees	393	Alan Morris	504	Alan Morris	348
Allan Benson	814	Nick Carson	358	Allan Benson	493	Allan Benson	343
Robin Benson	801	Alan Stuart	316	Daniel McKeon	476	Andy Robinson	337
Tim Faulkner	796	Graham Nelson	298	Andy Robinson	447	Nick Carson	334
Alan Stuart	763	Allan Benson	276	Alan Stuart	439	Graham Nelson	331
Alan Morris	729			Gabrielle Rees	436	Daniel McKeon	309
Gabrielle Rees	721			Nick Carson	443	Alan Stuart	247
Michael Scobie	709			Graham Nelson	381	Leonie Loewe	226
Andy Robinson	707			Leeanne Lemke	326	Gabrielle Rees	213
Christina Port	622			Ameliee Clark	120	Ameliee Clark	55
Darren Earnshaw	619						
Nick Carson	615						
Daniel McKeon	543						
Carol Edwards	580						
Meryl Newton	401						
Graham Nelson	397						
Leeanne Lemke	352						
Ameliee Clark	172						

SOUTH WYONG SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS

November Survey

Four observers found 550 waterfowl on the ponds. The majority were Grey Teal but 60 Coot, 70 Hardhead and 10 Hoary-headed Grebe were noted, Observers found the ponds reasonably full. Only 38 species were recorded.

The survey takes place the Wednesday after our meeting. Meet at the Ibis Rd entrance at 9.30am.

REPORT OF BIRD SURVEYS SOUTH WYONG SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS 2024

Central Coast Group-Birding NSW conducted 11 monthly surveys in 2024. The water level in the ponds varied considerably from month to month as a result of operational requirements. In general, the fuller the ponds, the greater the number of waterfowl. Numbers ranged from a low of 180 to a high of 750.

Black Ducks were present in all surveys along with Australasian Grebes. Grey and Chestnut Teal, Hoary-headed Grebe and Eurasian Coot were present in most surveys. Vagrant records include Pink-eared Duck, Shoveler and Musk Duck. The sewage ponds are an important sanctuary when conditions are dry inland. Black Duck, Chestnut Teal and Australasian Grebe are resident on the Central Coast.

Overall, 98 species were recorded which includes species from the surrounding bushland. Other species which are dependent on the wetland include Egrets, Herons, Reed-warbler, Buff-banded Rail, Cormorants, Pelican, Black Swan, Black-fronted Dotterel, Ibis, Spoonbill, Swamphen etc.

Note there is a resident Swamp Harrier at this location (seen in all but one survey). The wetland also proves a food source for other raptors including White-breasted Sea-Eagle, Whistling Kite and Brown Goshawk.

These surveys emphasize that of the Sewage Treatment Works is an important bird habitat on the Central Coast.

Terrigal Pelagic Trip Report: Friday November 15, 2024

Andrew Robinson

I'm sure I speak for everyone in saying that this Terrigal trip was a cracker, courtesy of some fantastic birds, excellent company and good conditions. The trip out was without much excitement, with a few distant Albatross, a Pomarine Jaeger and Sooty Tern and expected Shearwater species the extent of it. We got to the shelf at 8:40am and were soon amongst the action however with Flesh-footed Shearwater, Providence Petrel, Grey-faced Petrel and Wilson's Storm-Petrel all arriving on cue. About an hour into our first drift things really picked up though when an interesting distant Pterodroma was called that was soon confirmed as Mottled Petrel (the main target species), though unfortunately only a few on board managed frustrating views as the bird stayed mostly low to the water and gave us a wide berth.

New birds continued to arrive, including a close Black-bellied Storm Petrel on the slick that provided decent views for all on board, soon followed by a rather stunning Antipodean Albatross that alighted and remained with us for much of the day. After a probable sighting a little earlier, we were also afforded excellent views of Gould's Petrel which showed plenty of interest in the slick and made several passes of the boat. This was the first of 4 Gould's Petrel encounters throughout the day, with a few individuals showing considerable plumage variation. Providence Petrel continued to make regular passes, while Sooty Shearwater, a few distant Sooty Tern and White-faced Storm-Petrel made the odd appearance and Grey-faced Petrel numbers continued to build.



We'd drifted several kilometres back over the shelf slope by this stage and despite having plenty of birds around the boat, though few new ones coming in, the call was made to motor back out to deeper water for a second and final drift. Many of the birds already in attendance followed but abundance undoubtedly increased, particularly Grey-faced Petrels with an impressive high count of 65 recorded, along with moderate Wilson's Storm-Petrel numbers. Despite our best efforts there were to be no more Mottleds for the day, though this was compensated by even better views of Gould's Petrel, more Wanderer action after the same individual re-found us, further good Black-bellied Storm Petrel sightings with 2 individuals being confirmed, and another sought-after species in Black Petrel which was the only new species added during the second drift.

Come 1:30pm it was time to head for shore, with the trip back being much the same as the one out, including half decent views of both Black-browed and Shy Albatross, some patchy Shearwater passage, including a few Sooty Shearwater and interestingly a Providence Petrel at the 10km mark (usually only encountered in deeper water).

The Mottled Petrel and Black-bellied Storm Petrel were the 49th & 50th pelagic species recorded on these trips. Mottled Petrel was a new species for the Central Coast (LGA), while the Black-bellied Stormies were apparently only the third record. Gould's Petrel (5), Black Petrel, Antipodean Albatross, Sooty Tern and Grey-faced Petrels (125 / 65 max count) are also noteworthy. In total 20 pelagic species were seen beyond the Haven with 16 of those Tubenoses – the highest Tubenose diversity seen on a Terrigal trip. As follows:

Black-browed Albatross – 6 (1), Shy Albatross – 3 (1), Antipodean Albatross (ssp. gibsoni) – 1, Grey-faced Petrel – 125 (65), Providence Petrel – 28 (3), Gould's Petrel – 5 (1), MOTTLED PETREL – 1, Black Petrel – 1, Wilson's Storm-Petrel – 28 (16), White-faced Storm-Petrel – 7 (4), BLACK-BELLIED STORM P-ETREL – 4 (2), Short-tailed Shearwater – 1200+ (100+), Sooty Shearwater – 8 (2), Flesh-footed Shearwater – 28 (6), Wedge-tailed Shearwater – 200+ (30+), Fluttering type Shearwater – 12, Pomarine Jaeger – 1, Jaeger sp. – 1, Sooty Tern – 5 (2), Greater Crested Tern – 8 (4), Australian Pelican – 1.

Terrigal Pelagic Trip Report, Friday November 22, 2024

Andrew Robinson

A quick recap from the third Terrigal Pelagic of November and what was yet another crippling day at sea highlighted by a proper Australian MEGA in the form of New Zealand Storm-Petrel.

A quiet trip out soon came to life after we came across 4 Red-tailed Tropicbirds in quick succession, 2 of which were on the water allowing us to slowly motor toward them for excellent views. Otherwise, the only notables were low numbers of predictable Albatrosses, a Pomarine Jaeger and some reasonable Sooty Shearwater passage (though nothing like what was recorded on the Port Stephens trip a day earlier).

Once at the shelf and with a solid slick in place we were treated to a range of expected species including both Wilson's and White-faced Storm-Petrel, regular Grey-faced Petrels, the odd Providence Petrel and some nice Wandering Albatross action. A single Hutton's Shearwater was also seen though for the most part birds were reluctant to land close to the boat.

About half way through the first drift and with reasonable numbers of Stormies on the slick, a Black-bellied Storm-Petrel was briefly and frustratingly seen by only a few on board. This had us on our toes and before long the call went up for another Storm-Petrel with pale underparts that quickly proved to be a 'stripey'. Initial views weren't great, but we were thankfully able to relocate the bird several times on the slick for better views and photos, which to the absolute delight of all on board, confirmed a New Zealand Storm-Petrel – a critically endangered NZ breeding endemic that is rarely encountered on the east coast of Australia.



The NZ Stormie was eventually lost to view and with no new birds attending, we ventured a quick drift at the start of the shelf slope, that produced a few more Pomarine Jaegers and Antipodean Albatross, before it was time to head for terra firma. A mostly uneventful return trip followed, though a possible 'Commic' Tern left us a little speculative after it powered over the top of the boat before being lost to view.

The Red-tailed Tropicbird and New Zealand Storm-Petrel were the 51st & 52nd pelagic species recorded on Terrigal trips. The Tropicbird was only the 4th record for the Central Coast (LGA), while unbelievably the New Zealand Storm Petrel was the second record (following a well reported bird at the Norah Canyons in April 2013). There are only about the 6 NSW and 14 Australian records for NZSP, though apparently a number of records are currently being reviewed. A BARC submission will be prepared.

In total 19 pelagic species were seen beyond The Haven with 14 of those Tubenoses. As follows:

Black-browed Albatross – 8 (2), Shy Albatross – 11 (2), Antipodean Albatross (ssp. gibsoni) – 4 (1), Grey-faced Petrel – 14 (3), Providence Petrel – 3 (1), Wilson's Storm-Petrel – 17 (5), (White-faced Storm Petrel – 6 (2), Black-bellied Storm-Petrel – 1, NEW ZEALAND STORM-PETREL – 1, Short-tailed Shearwater – 40 (12), Sooty Shearwater – 150+ (25), Flesh-footed Shearwater – 30 (8), Wedge-tailed Shearwater – 35 (7), Hutton's Shearwater – 1, Australasian Gannet – 1, Red-tailed Tropicbird – 4 (2), Pomarine Jaeger – 5 (1), Sooty Tern – 5 (2), Greater Crested Tern – 2.

Terrigal Pelagic Trip Report, Friday December 20, 2024

Andrew Robinson

After the incredible year that's been, it seemed only fitting that we finished with a bang and so it was on Friday with yet another New Zealand Storm-Petrel (the second in as many trips) and a suite of other cracking birds, including two firsts for Terrigal.

Departing at 6:20am with a moderate mixed swell and stronger than forecast winds in place, the trip out was a rough and rather mundane, though mid-range Albatrosses, along with a few distant Jaegers including Pomarine and Arctic, kept us on our toes.

The first highlight of the day came soon enough though when approx. half an hour before the shelf slope and to the great excitement of all on board, a White-necked Petrel came hooking in before making several close passes, allowing great views and reasonable photo opportunities of this much sought species.

We were soon motoring again, albeit at a slower rate due to deteriorating conditions, arriving at the shelf slope at about 9:30am before getting to work on the slick. Wilson's and White-faced Storm-Petrels soon appeared, Flesh-footed Shearwaters were in attendance, along with several Grey-faced Petrel, the odd Providence Petrel and Black-browed Albatross and solid numbers of Shy Albatross. On the back of preceding strong southerly winds, the first of two Buller's Albatross was also seen which was something of a surprise for December.

From this point the birding kept getting better when a Fregetta Storm-Petrel was picked up close to the boat that was soon confirmed as a New Zealand Storm-Petrel – unbelievably the second record in as many trips and clearly distinct from the individual seen on 22/11. For short periods over the next 3 hours all on board were afforded cracking views of this critically endangered NZ breeding endemic.

In between however, the highlights kept coming, firstly with a Northern Giant Petrel (another unexpected summer species), followed by a Cook's Petrel, and nearing departure time, another vulnerable NZ breeding endemic in Buller's Shearwater. Mid-drift a Sooty Tern was also a nice addition to the trip list. Needless to say, there was a boat full of very happy, though in some cases slightly sick birders!

Come 1:30pm and with conditions thankfully easing, we made for shore. The return trip was uneventful other than a pair of Buller's Shearwater that fortuitously turned up when we'd stopped the boat for one reason or another.

The White-necked Petrel and Cook's Petrel were the 53rd & 54th pelagic species recorded on Terrigal trips and apparently only the second records for each species for the Central Coast LGA. The New Zealand Storm-Petrel was the third Central Coast record with only about 7 NSW and 15 previous Australian records, though a number of records are currently being reviewed. A BARC submission will be prepared.

In total 19 pelagic species were seen beyond The Haven with 15 of those Tubenoses. As follows:

Black-browed Albatross – 4 (1), Shy Albatross – 24 (7), Buller's Albatross – 2 (1), Northern Giant Petrel – 1, Grey-faced Petrel – 14 (4), Providence Petrel – 3 (1), WHITE-NECKED PETREL – 1, COOK'S PETREL – 1, Wilson's Storm-Petrel – 14 (8), White-faced Storm-Petrel – 4 (2), NEW ZEALAND STORM-PETREL – 1, Short-tailed Shearwater – 55 (25), Buller's Shearwater – 3 (2), Flesh-footed Shearwater – 25 (12), Wedge-tailed Shearwater – 45 (10), Pomarine Jaeger – 5 (2), Arctic Jaeger – 1, Sooty Tern – 1, Greater Crested Tern – 3 (1).



*Parenthesis denotes the maximum number of that species seen at any one time.

Terrigal Pelagic Trip Summary, 2024

Andrew Robinson

2024 was a remarkable year for seabirding on the Central Coast, NSW. Following is a summary from the 12 Terrigal pelagic trips undertaken; February (2), March, May (2), June, July, September, November (3) and December.

Highlights included 3 genuine rarities with Herald Petrel in February, Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross in September and distinct New Zealand Storm-Petrels in November and December. Additional notable records included Tahiti Petrel, Kermadec Petrel, White-tailed Tropicbird (February), Red-footed Booby (February & June), South Polar Skua (March), Mottled Petrel, White-chinned Petrel, Black-bellied Storm-Petrel and Red-tailed Tropicbird (November), and Buller's Shearwater, White-necked Petrel and Cook's Petrel (December). The Herald Petrel, South Polar Skua, Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross and Mottled Petrel were new species for the Central Coast LGA, while 12 of the above-mentioned species were new for Terrigal Pelagics - all with very few previous Central Coast records e.g. first at sea record of Red-footed Booby, second Central Coast records for White-chinned Petrel, New Zealand Storm-Petrel, White-necked Petrel and Cook's Petrel.

At year's end the cumulative Terrigal Pelagic trip list was 54 species from 29 trips since early 2021. Other observations of interest included Black Petrel (February & November), Gould's Petrel (February and on separate trips in November including 5 on 15/11), Antipodean (6) & Wandering (1) Albatross in May, Brown Skua (9 in July), Black-browed Albatross (45 in July), Southern Giant Petrel (July & September), Grey-faced Petrel (125+ in November) and Shy Albatross (24), Buller's Albatross (2) and Northern Giant Petrel (December). Red-footed Booby in June was an unusual record, Sooty Tern was seen on 5 separate trips, while Shy Albatross was seen on all 12 trips.

In July a leg-banded (W23) Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross was seen, which upon advice from ABBBS, was ringed as an adult in December 2011 making it at least 16 years of age. The bird was ringed at Amsterdam – Entrecasteaux study colony (Southern Indian Ocean, French Southern Territories) and was visually sexed as female and has regularly been seen at the colony during breeding since 2011. In total, 46 pelagic species (excluding Cormorants) were seen beyond 'The Haven' in 2024 (see below species list), with 33 of those Tubenoses. As expected, the highest diversity was recorded throughout November with 22 species recorded on 2/11, and a high count of 16 Tubenoses on 15/11.

Aside from pelagic trips, a juvenile Brown Booby was seen on a fishing charter in May, Kelp Gulls were seen around Norah Head in September & October and in December, a Lesser Frigatebird was an excellent record at Snapper Point (Munmorah SCA), while a second Northern Giant Petrel was seen 500m from shore at Soldiers Beach. The only obvious omissions from an otherwise exceptional year were the lack any Southern Ocean specialties which can be attributed to unfavourable conditions for our Winter / early Spring trips. Cetacean diversity was low with a pod of Pygmy Killer Whales in September the highlight, while a Striped Marlin put on a memorable display in March, and a Blue Shark was seen in July.

As always, a big thanks to the 76 splendid humans that joined a Terrigal Pelagic throughout the year, with special mention to the regulars who are always willing to help out and spotted some excellent birds. These trips are not possible without your ongoing support, and it was a real pleasure to see most people rewarded with some excellent seabirds. Lastly, a huge thanks to the most accommodating pelagic skipper in Australia and all-round legend Paul Minto for his patience, willingness and at sea expertise, along with Dean Purcell who regularly helped out with logistics and all things burley.

At this stage, 12 trips are planned for 2025 with the trip schedule to be made available via email (to those that have been out with us before) and posted to both Central Coast Pelagics and Central Coast Birders Facebook groups shortly.

In the meantime, I wish everyone the best for 2025 and let's hope for an equally outstanding year's seabirding.

The 2024 Terrigal Pelagic seabird list was as follows: ·

Silver Gull · Greater Crested Tern · Sooty Tern · South Polar Skua · Brown Skua · Pomarine Jaeger · Arctic Jaeger · Long-tailed Jaeger · Red-tailed Tropicbird · White-tailed Tropicbird · Wilson's Storm-Petrel · White-faced Storm-Petrel · Black-bellied Storm-Petrel · New Zealand Storm-Petrel · Wandering Albatross · New Zealand Wandering Albatross · Campbell Albatross · Black-browed Albatross · Shy Albatross · Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross · Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross · Buller's Albatross · Northern Giant Petrel · Southern Giant Petrel · Fairy Prion · Grey-faced Petrel · Providence Petrel · Kermadec Petrel · Herald Petrel · Mottled Petrel · White-necked Petrel · Gould's Petrel · Cook's Petrel · Tahiti Petrel · Black Petrel · White-chinned Petrel · Wedge-tailed Shearwater · Buller's Shearwater · Sooty Shearwater · Short-tailed Shearwater · Flesh-footed Shearwater · Fluttering Shearwater · Hutton's Shearwater · Red-footed Booby · Australasian Gannet · Australian Pelican.